Fee hike in higher education

750. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from any source, including the Planning Commission during 2007, to increase fees to meet at least 20 per cent of recurring cost on higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the above proposal;

(c) the details of ratio of existing fees and recurring cost on higher education in Central Universities, University-wise and category-wise as on date;

(d) whether steps would be taken to control fee structure of professional courses in various private and other institutions affiliated to various universities and deemed universities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Knowledge Commission has recommended that while it is for universities to decide the level of fees, as a norm, fees should meet at least 20% of the total expenditure in universities. The recommendations of the Knowledge Commission has not yet been considered by the Government.

(c) The information is not centrally maintained.

(d) to (f) In the Islamic Academy matter, the Supreme Court of India had directed that each State shall set up a committee headed by a retired High Court Judge, to approve the fee structure or to propose some other fee to be charged by the educational institution. The University Grants Commission also notifies, from time to time, regulations for fixation of fees. The Commission has constituted a Committee in August, 2007 to formulate-

(i) Regulations with regard to admission and fee for self-financing, private professional institutions, including deemed to be universities.

(ii) Regulations for admission and fee for self-financing courses in aided Universities/Colleges.

(iii) Regulations for admission and fee for aided courses in aided Universities and Colleges.

A legislative proposal for this purpose, under Article 15(5) of the Constitution of India, in respect of private unaided institutions, including 'deemed universities' is also under consideration of the Government.